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**DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**

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June 12, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: Petition for Reconsideration of DTV Allotment Table  
KKCO-TV, Grand Junction, Colorado

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of Eagle III Broadcasting, LLC, enclosed please find original and four copies of Petition for Reconsideration of DTV allotment table regarding KKCO-TV, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Enclosed also is one additional copy which I would appreciate your date stamping and returning to this office in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you have any questions or require additional copies, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Cara Ebert Cameron

CEC:gg

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 024  
List A B C D E

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C.

In re )  
)  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION )  
SIXTH REPORT AND ORDER )  
DTV ALLOTMENT TABLE )  
)  
Adopted: April 3, 1997 )  
Issued: April 21, 1997 )  
)  
For Assignment of Channel 14 )  
KKCO-TV, Grand Junction, Colorado )

MM Docket No. 87-268

To: The Commission

PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

Eagle III Broadcasting, LLC (Eagle), licensee of Station KKCO-TV, Channel 11, Grand Junction, Colorado herein petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's Sixth Report and Order (6th R&O) in Mass Media (MM) Docket 86-148 released April 21, 1997, concerning the digital television (DTV) Allotment Table. In the 6th R & O the Commission assigned channel 14 to Station KKCO as its digital television allotment. Eagle requests that in lieu of channel 14, it be assigned channel 12 as its DTV allotment and in support of this Petition for Reconsideration, the following is stated:

Eagle was granted the Construction Permit for NTSC Channel 11 on January 23, 1996, after a rather lengthy application process during which it merged with a competing applicant. KKCO-TV 11, an NBC Network affiliate, signed on the air July 19, 1996, a little less than one year ago. Its city of license, Grand Junction, Colorado, is located in a 25 mile wide valley

surrounded by mountain peaks up to 10,000 feet high on the western slope of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The mountains in this area present extreme terrain shielding conditions to broadcasters. Tower sites are often on mountain tops which are administered by the U. S. Forest Service, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or are protected lands in some other way. Federal, state, municipal and environmental laws in the region very often present site location obstacles to holders of FCC broadcast and other types of communications licenses.

KKCO's channel 11 antenna is located on the Colorado National Monument, a national park, at 7,700 feet on the west side of the city. There are approximately twenty users on at the site including FM radio stations, two way communications and microwave installations. There are three fully loaded broadcast towers. The site is administered by the BLM. Although there is another antenna farm on a 10,000 foot mountain on the east side of town where KJCT-TV, the ABC affiliate is located, which is more desirable, KKCO-TV was unable to locate its antenna there because of short spacing requirements. Hence, the existing site is the only site from which channel 11 can broadcast.

Prior to the channel 11 construction, the site had been frozen for two years, preventing any additional facilities from locating there. Even though Eagle was able to negotiate a lifting of the freeze, it was unable to obtain permission to build another tower. It had no choice, if it was to locate the station at the only site available that would both cover the city of license and meet the short spacing requirements, other than to use a custom designed 900 pound aluminum panel antenna that fit on an FM radio tower with a 24 inch face. A conventional 5,000 pound steel VHF antenna could not be accommodated.

There is certainly no way that Eagle can find a way to accommodate the 12,528 pound channel 14 UHF antenna (see Exhibit I) on any of the towers at its existing site. Although it may be possible to reconfigure the site, which has limited land space with sheer drop offs and extreme access, by replacing the existing towers with a larger tower and relocating the users, the BLM was not encouraging that such a project could go forward. (See Exhibit II) It appears unlikely that BLM and Black Ridge Site users will give permission to construct a new tower that would accomodate a conventional television antenna, either UHF or VHF. The economic burden of constructing such a facility and making the necessary facilities changes is in all probability too great for the site users to approve. Grand Junction is the 191st DMA, and the revenues in the market will not begin to support such an expenditure.

If KKCO were assigned channel 12 as its DTV channel, it could utilize its existing custom designed channel 11 antenna installation and diplex its NTSC channel 11 and DTV channel 12 into it, and there would be no necessity to build a new tower. At the end of the transition period, it intends to return channel 12 and use channel 11 as its DTV channel. This would be economically viable in that Eagle could utilize the same transmitter for DTV channel 12 and ultimately DTV channel 11.

Not only does it appear to be virtually impossible to accommodate a UHF antenna on channel 14 at the existing site or because of short spacing requirements at the other possible site, there is no water at the site to service a UHF transmitter. Because of extreme access, it is doubtful that water could be trucked in.


Eagle would also point out that the other two full power VHF stations, KREX TV5 (CBS) and KJCT TV8 (ABC), have been assigned VHF DTV channels. The VHF TV

dissemination characteristic of "being thrown out in an arch and falling down like rain" is much more suitable in mountain terrain than the line of sight characteristic of UHF which is more likely to bounce back off mountains causing multipath interference.

Finally, Eagle's consulting engineers, duTreil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc., have determined that the substitution of DTV channel 12 for DTV channel 14 at KKCO will not result in a loss of service, and will result in a reduction of total interference area caused by the DTV allotment. The Technical Statement prepared by them showing these findings in detail is attached herewith and is incorporated herein by reference.

Wherefore, in light of the present circumstances of very limited site space on the Colorado National Monument, no existing tower at the only usable site over 350 feet high and 24 inches wide upon which to mount a UHF antenna, major resistance to new tower construction, no water to service a UHF transmitter, no available alternative site, no loss of service and a reduction of interference, this Petition for Reconsideration should be GRANTED and the Commission should allot adjacent channel 12 to KKCO for its transitional DTV operation instead of channel 14.

EAGLE III BROADCASTING, LLC

  
Cara Ebert Cameron

Its counsel

Cara Ebert Cameron, P.A.  
3101 North Federal Highway  
Suite 601  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306

June 12, 1997

TECHNICAL STATEMENT  
SUPPORTING A PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION  
FROM EAGLE III BROADCASTING, LLC.

This Technical Statement supports a petition for reconsideration from Eagle III Broadcasting, LLC., licensee of television (TV) station KKCO on channel 11 at Grand Junction, Colorado. The petition for reconsideration concerns the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Sixth Report and Order (6<sup>th</sup> R&O) in Mass Media (MM) Docket No. 87-268. This proceeding concerns advanced television systems and their impact upon the existing television broadcast service. In the 6<sup>th</sup> R&O, the FCC assigned channel 14 to station KKCO as its digital television (DTV) allotment. This KKCO petition for reconsideration requests the FCC to allot adjacent channel 12 to KKCO for its transitional DTV operation instead of channel 14.

According to the FCC's TV database, station KKCO is authorized to operate on analog<sup>1</sup> channel 11 with a non-directional antenna system. The visual effective radiated power (ERP) is shown as 138 kilowatts (kW). The antenna height above average terrain (HAAT) is 429 meters. Station

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<sup>1</sup> Also referred to as NTSC for National Television Systems Committee.

KKCO believes the FCC's TV database should be corrected to reflect a visual ERP of 155 kW for the analog operation.

The FCC allotted DTV channel 14 to station KKCO, with an average ERP of 346.7 kW at an antenna HAAT of 429 meters.

A DTV interference analysis computer program available through TA Services of the National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) in Boulder, Colorado has been employed. It has been used to determine the calculated areas of service and interference for analog and DTV operations. The NTIA program uses the Longley-Rice propagation model, and the general methodology employed by the FCC in the DTV allocation process.

Figure 1 is a map developed by the NTIA computer program. It shows the calculated Grade B service area for the KKCO analog operation on channel 11. The map shows regions of calculated interference from other analog and DTV operations. Areas where the KKCO signal is below Grade B due to terrain effects are indicated. The clear or unshaded area indicates where KKCO provides interference free Grade B service. The map includes a "key" estimating the amount of service and interference in terms of population, households and area.

Figure 2 is a map from the NTIA program for the FCC's proposed KKCO DTV operation on channel 14. The 41 dBu noise limited service area is shown as clear or unshaded.

A study for DTV channel 14 based on the FCC's new minimum separation requirements indicates a short-spacing with respect to the vacant non-commercial, educational (NCE) TV allotment for analog channel \*14 at Moab, Utah. In order to make the allotment of DTV channel 14 to KKCO at Grand Junction, the FCC is deleting the Moab NCE channel \*14 analog allotment, with no DTV replacement channel. If the FCC allots DTV channel 12 to KKCO instead of channel 14, it appears the NCE channel 14 allotment can be retained at Moab and simply reserved as a DTV allotment.

Figure 3 is a map from the NTIA program for suggested alternative DTV channel 12 for KKCO. The NTIA program indicated a DTV ERP of 10.3 kW for channel 12 would replicate KKCO's current analog operation on channel 11.

A study for DTV channel 12 based on the FCC's new separation requirements indicates a small short-spacing with station KOBF on analog channel 12 at Farmington, New Mexico. The actual separation is 267.2 kilometers and the FCC's proposed requirement is 273.6 kilometers. This represents only a 6.4 kilometer short-spacing. As will be



shown below, no interference will be caused to or received from the KOBF analog operation on channel 12.

The NTIA's DTV program was used to calculate the interference caused from the FCC's channel 14 DTV allotment to KKCO, and from KKCO's suggested DTV channel 12 alternative. The following table provides a summary of the areas of interference caused by the KKCO channel 14 and 12 DTV operations.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Channel</u>	<u>KKCO DTV Ch. 14 Interference Caused</u>
KFQX, Grand Junction, CO	DTV-15	373 sq km
KRMJ, Grand Junction, CO	NTSC-18	6
KRMJ, Grand Junction, CO	DTV-16	4

<u>Station</u>	<u>Channel</u>	<u>KKCO DTV Ch. 12 Interference Caused</u>
KBDI-TV, Broomfield, CO	NTSC-12	29 sq km

To summarize, the above exhibits demonstrate that substitution of DTV channel 12 for DTV channel 14 at KKCO will not result in a loss of service, and will result in a reduction of total interference area caused by the DTV allotment. If there are questions concerning this

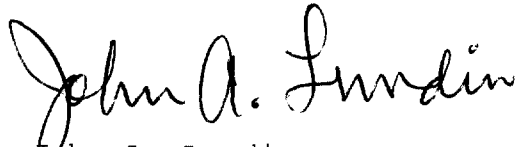
***du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.***

A Subsidiary of A.D. Ring, P.A.

Eagle III Broadcasting, LLC.

Page 5 of 5

Technical Statement, please contact the office of the undersigned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Lundin".

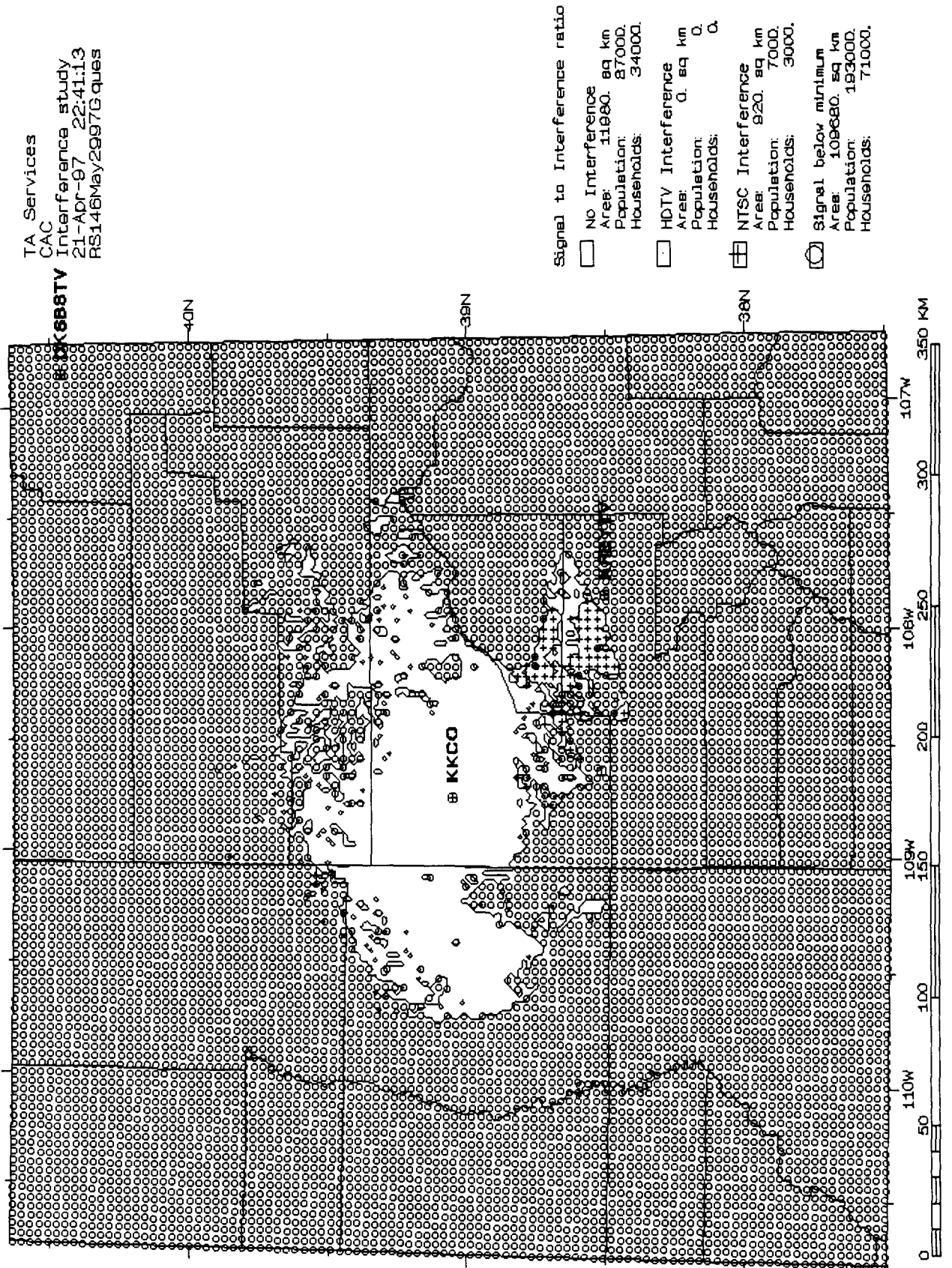
John A. Lundin

du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.  
240 North Washington Boulevard  
Suite 700  
Sarasota, Florida 34236

(941) 366-2611

June 5, 1997

TA Services  
CAC  
Interference study  
21-Apr-97 22:41:13  
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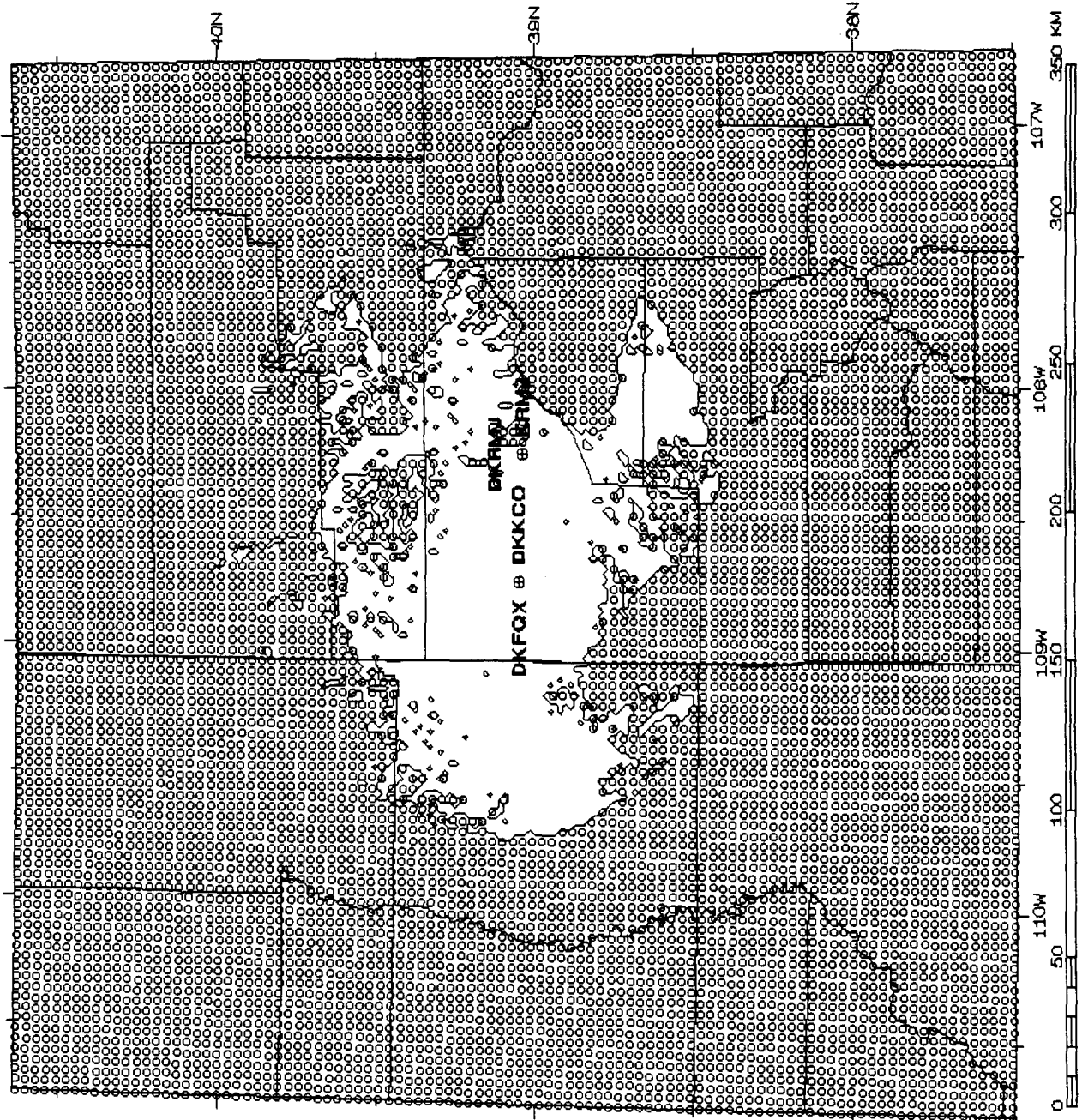
# FCC Proposed DTV Channel 14

Figure 2

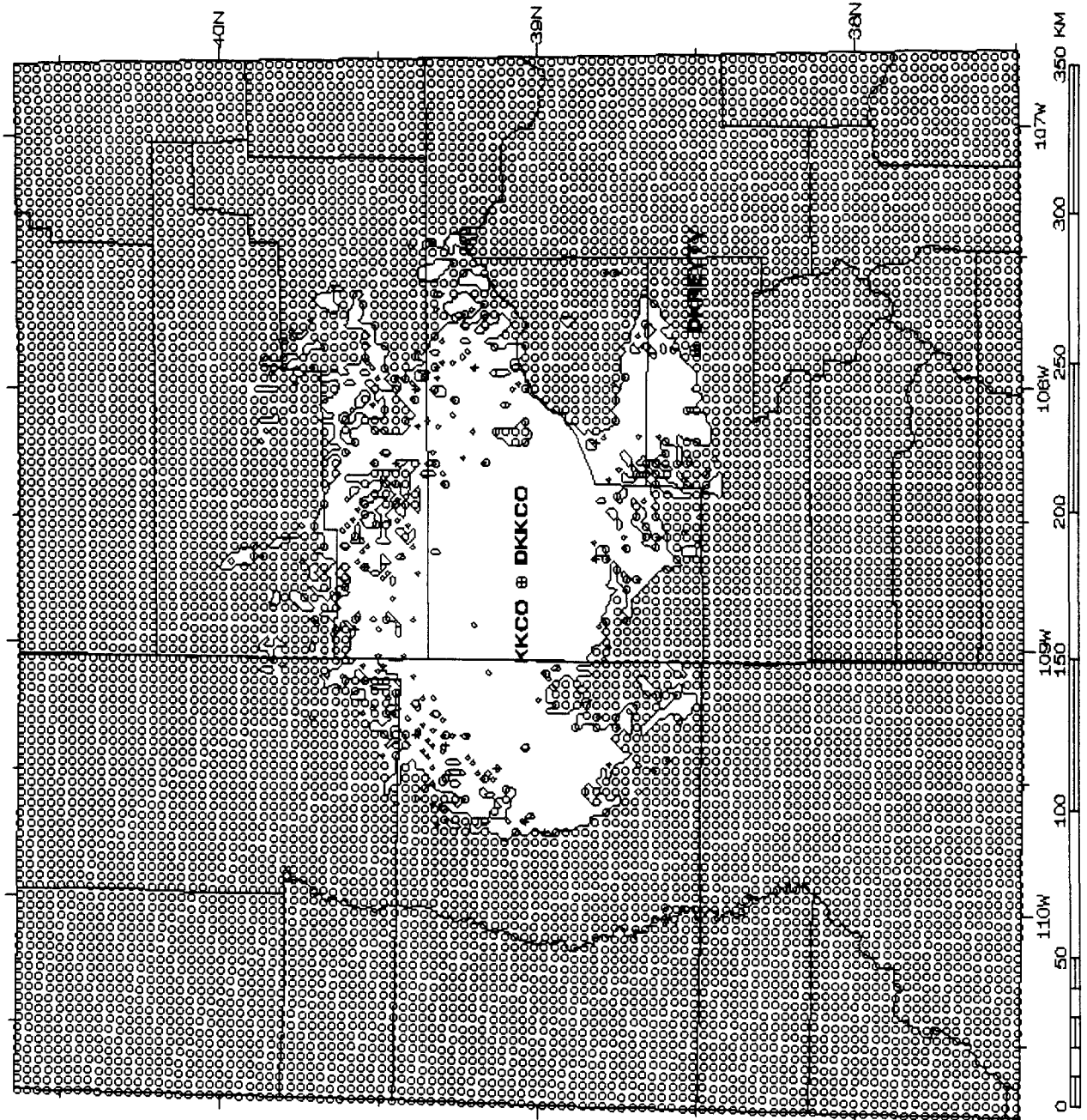
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Signal to Interference ratio

- ☐ No Interference  
Area: 14620. sq km  
Population: 98000.  
Households: 37000.
- ☐ HDTV Interference  
Area: 50. sq km  
Population: 0.  
Households: 0.
- ☐ NTSC Interference  
Area: 0. sq km  
Population: 0.  
Households: 0.
- ☐ Signal below minimum  
Area: 107500. sq km  
Population: 191000.  
Households: 70000.



TA Services  
CACA  
Interference study  
21-Apr-97 22:41:13  
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**JTW****High Power Traveling Wave UHF Slot Antenna****IDEAL FOR DTV APPLICATIONS****HORIZONTAL, CIRCULAR OR ELLIPTICAL POLARIZATION****TOP OR SIDE MOUNTED****PERFORMANCE, QUALITY AND RELIABILITY****STANDARD AND CUSTOM DIRECTIONAL PATTERNS****IDEAL FOR HIGH POWER APPLICATIONS****FULLY RADOME ENCLOSED**

The JAMPRO JTW Traveling Wave Antenna is available in various patterns and polarizations for effective broadcast coverage to achieve maximum market penetration. Highly null filled vertical patterns, high power handling, high gains and single feed point assure optimum pattern performance and low VSWR. The JTW has inherently high efficiency, very low windload characteristics and is now available for DTV applications. The antenna system is mechanically designed to minimize galvanic effects for longer life. Radomes protect against icing conditions.

**Electrical Specifications****Frequency Range 470-800****VSWR**

**Visual Carrier 1.05 max**  
**Over Channel 1.10 or better**

**Power Rating**

**60 kW**  
**120 kW**  
**180 kW**

**Mechanical Specifications****Top Mounted Antennas - Elevation Gain of 30**

Channel	Height (ft.)	Weight (lbs.)	Windload (lbs.)
14	71.6	12528	4295
22	65.5	11454	3927
30	60.4	10563	3622
38	56.0	9807	3362
46	52.4	9163	3142
54	49.2	8608	2951
62	46.4	8118	2783
69	44.2	7740	2654

**Top Mounted Antennas - Elevation Gain of 25**

Channel	Height (ft.)	Weight (lbs.)	Windload (lbs.)
14	54.9	9615	3296
22	50.3	8810	3020
30	46.5	8141	2791
38	43.3	7574	2597
46	40.5	7091	2431
54	38.1	6675	2288
62	36.0	6307	2162
69	34.4	6024	2065



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Grand Junction Resource Area  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506



IN REPLY REFER TO:

2800/(7-680)  
COC 43086

May 22, 1997

Mr. Bill Varecha  
2325 Interstate Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81505

Dear Bill:

I received your letter requesting authorization for a new 500 to 700 foot tower on the Black Ridge Communication site.

As you know, the Black Ridge Communication Site Users Association (BRCSUA) has been talking about working on a site management plan that would guide future development at this site. Your proposal should be considered by BRCSUA when they are working on the site plan. I encourage you to coordinate your proposal with them. We would probably not approve a new facility of this type if it was opposed by the other users.

I understand your need to improve your facility to meet the requirements of High Definitions TV by 2006. The best approach at this time might be to work with BRCSUA in the development of the plan that would consider your concerns along with other issues at the site. BLM can be available to help with this planning effort. Our engineers will complete a site plan showing existing facilities in the next couple of weeks. You might be able to expedite the process by actively participating in the planning process yourself.

If you decide to go ahead with your proposal at this time, you will need to have your facility owner apply for a right-of-way amendment using form 299. But, as I said above, we would not be likely to authorize the new tower if your fellow communication site users opposed it. So I suggest that you hold off on applying until your plans are a little more definite.

Sincerely,

David Lehmann  
Use Authorization Staff Lead

cc: Norm Price, BRCSUA chairman